April 1973

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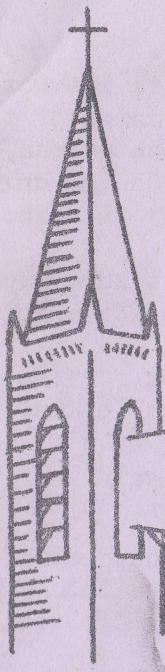

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

April 1973

AN EASTER MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The distant hum of holiday trafiic was not quite loud enough, and the muffled strains of the last hymn could just be heard. The man paused, waiting for his dog, and looked towards the church. People were just beginning to come out when the poster caught his eye.

"Hmm, Easter," he muttered, " doesn't seem much to them. Come on, boy - there's time for a drink before dinner if we get moving."

A few people were still in church for the communion service, and one of them was looking at his hymn book.

On the third morn He rose again,
Glorious in Majesty to reign.

"I wonder what it was like on that third morn", - thoughtfully he sank to his knees for the beginning of the service - "especially for the people who had to bury Him."

Almighty God unto whom all hearts be open,-

It was a terrible job! A ghastly thing to have to do. No-one said a word. The small party stumbled up the hill. Their grief was too deep for tears. Slowly they moved up to the cross in the centre, hardly daring to look up. Two of them went round the back and climbed up on the high wooden stool which they had brought. They passed the long sheet round the front of the cross, over the limp and blood-stained body, under the wooden cross piece, and one of them held it. The other stooped to struggle with the nail in his feet. They undid the cross piece and lowered the body to the ground. Slowly, silently, the little group moved away to Joseph's garden and the rock tomb.

People were talking; quickly he turned over the page.

'And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the rememberance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable, have mercy'- - hear what comfortable words -

The voice faded, "I wonder what it was really like."

The door burst open as the two men rushed out into the street and raced off through the city. The old beggar turned and stared after them. Steadily the younger man got further ahead, but he slowed as he ran into the garden, and stopped suddenly near the tomb. The soldiers! For a few seconds he listened, and then crept quietly round to look. It was true. The stone had been moved. He peeped into the tomb, and then jumped back as Peter came rushing up, and straight into the small rock cave. Slowly his eyes adjusted to the gloom. The body had gone - but the grave clothes were still there. Neither of the two men spoke, but very slowly a smile spread across the face of the younger man. Together they retraced their steps through the city, back to the house.
"I'm afraid it might have been thieves looking for jewels in the winding clothes."
"But the clothes were still there - even the one that was round his head."

The events had broken the grief stricken silence, but the small group still spoke quietly. An impatient, urgent knocking disturbed them. Quietly one of them went downstairs and listened at the door. "It's Mary," said a voice repeatedly. Quickly the wooden bolt was pulled back; the door opened, and Mary rushed upstairs. "I've seen the Lord!" she cried, "I've seen the Lord! I went out into the garden, and saw someone I thought was the gardener, but it was Jesus."

Suddenly he got up, and walked up the church. He was almost too late; 'the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which is given for thee'-- Mary's words rang in his ears as he walked back to his seat; "I've seen the Lord, I've seen - ". He could almost see the looks

of utter amazement, of unbelief, of joy, on the faces of those who first heard the words. For a moment he seemed to be with them, hearing as if for the first time the staggering news -

"Christ is Risen; He's Alive Again!"

The joy and thrill of Easter possessed him.
'Glory be to God on high, and in the earth - '

I pray that this Easter will bring you all joys that have never been yours before, and the thrill of Eastertime will cause you to look at Christ again as the Risen Lord.

Sincere wishes,

Allan Roberts

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IN MEMORIAM

ANNIE ROBERTS, of 37 Moorland Avenue, Milnrow, who passed away on the 2nd March, aged 75 years. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. T. Vause on Wednesday, 7th March.
Our sympathy is extended to the family.

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

April

1st:	"The Family of man and the family of God"	Ephesians 3: 14-21
8th	"Training the disciples"	Mark 4: 1-2; 10-12
15th	"The strength of Love"	Mark 11: 1-10
22nd	"Jesus goes on before us"	Mark 16: 1-8

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MARCH OFFERTORIES

Cash: am. £14.82; pm. £3.08; Envelopes £53.23
Total: £71.13

EASTER TIME AT ST. STEPHEN'S

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PALM SUNDAY.....15th April.....6.0 p.m.

The choir presentation of:

"OLIVET TO CALVARY"

Soloists:

Mrs. Audrey Baines .. ..Soprano
Mr. Derek Lynch .. .. .. Tenor
Mr. Thomas Ashworth . .Baritone

Organist: Mr. A. Clegg
Service conducted by Mrs. E. Gillon

MAUNDY THURSDAY....19th April.....7.30 p.m.

Service of Word and Sacrament
Conducted by Revd. T.P. Strachan
King Street (Oldham) U.R. Church

GOOD FRIDAY.....20th April.....10.30 am.

Worship * Mr. Allan Roberts

EASTER SUNDAY.....22nd April.....11.00 am.

Family worship with communion
Revd. A.C. Burnham B.A. (Manchester)

No Evening Service.

†

GUILD NEWS

At the Women's Guild Fashion Show on the 20th March £18 was raised. The show was presented by Harwoods' of Shaw and was organised by Mrs. Nora Settle. All styles of attire were displayed ranging from "Casual Wear" to "Evening Dress" and they were modelled by several ladies from the church. The raffle was won by Mrs. D. Hey.

Our thanks are expressed to all ladies who helped in any way to make the evening a success and to Mr. A. Clegg for his valuable help before and after the show.

At the ordinary monthly meeting of the Guild, Mrs. G. Saunders was the guest speaker and she spoke about "Life In Switzerland." Mrs. Saunders was born in Switzerland and told many interesting stories of her home village which is now a holiday resort.

A delicious supper was served at the close of the meeting in appreciation of Mrs. A. Whitworth who will soon be leaving to go to live in Wales. The President, Mrs. E. Gillon, presented our best wishes.

*

Tuesday, 3rd April: Next Guild Meeting

A talk and slide show given by
Mrs. D. Hayhurst

"Holday in Peru"

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Saturday 7th April at 7.30 p.m:

Rochdale & District Male Voice Choir
plus
Mrs. A. Heyworth

A QUICK MIX CHOCOLATE CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

$4\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Plain Flour
$2\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Baking powder
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. Salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Cocoa powder
4 oz Caster sugar
2 tbs. Boiling water
$6\frac{1}{2}$ tbs. Vegetable oil
1 egg
2 tbs. Milk

METHOD:

Put oven on Regulo 4 or 350°
Put ingredients in all together
Mix well.
Put into a greased tin
Put in oven and cook for 45 mins.

.....Submitted by Miss Lanet Law.

*

"MILDRED'S" MALT LOAF

INGREDIENTS:

1 Cupful "All-bran"
1 " Sultanas or raisins
1 " Sugar
1 " Flour

METHOD:

Place "All-Bran", dried fruit and sugar into a bowl.
Pour over the cupful of milk and allow to soak overnight.
After soaking, add flour and stir well.
Pour mixture into a greased, lined 1 lb loaf tin and bake for one hour Reg. 4 (350° - 375°

.....Submitted by Mrs. M. Howarth

GETTING TO KNOW.....(8)

M A L A Y S I A, S I N G A P O R E & B R U N E I

Federation of Malaysia was formed in 1963 when Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak joined together. The capital is Kuala Lumpur. Singapore left the Federation in 1965.

These countries are near the equator, but though in the tropics the sun is not unbearably hot. Sometimes Europeans find the climate hot and sticky. Why? Because of the heavy rainfall and hot sun. In England we normally have 38 inches of rain a year. In these countries the average is 100 inches. Some places have as much as 160 inches.

WEST MALAYSIA is about the size of England. Apart from the people who have their homes in the big towns along the west coast, most of the Malaysians live in scattered villages. They grow rice, coconuts, oil palm and pineapples. They also work in rubber plantations.

SINGAPORE has the fifth biggest port in the world. It buys and re-sells rubber, tin, timber, petroleum products, copra, pineapple, coconut oil and spices.

BRUNEI is a little larger than Norfolk. It has becpme rich since the Seria oil field was discovered in 1929. It also produces rubber, rice and sago.

SARAWAK is a little smaller than England. Like Sabah most of the people live a simple village life. Some of the people build their houses on stilts to protect themselves from floods and wild animals. Several families live under the same long roof but each has its own room called a 'bilek.' The whole house is called a 'longhouse'. Kuching is the capital and next to it, along the estuary of the Sarawak river, is the big port of Pending. Rubber, pepper and timber are shipped from there.

There are about 13,000,000 people living in the five countries. About 700,000 are Christians.

A FARM WORKER PRAYS

I will lift my eyes to the hills
is what we sang yesterday;

And so I will, and it looks like rain coming up; thank God, the lambing's done; if it rains much more in this cold the seed will rot before it sprouts.

I will lift my eyes.....I see the signs of the times, the village church was less than a quarter full, as usual; days gone, I suppose, when every family went, and more men worked the land.

Well I wouln't go back to the good old days,
meat once a week and children barefoot; but
come to it I wouln't change either,
and be a townie today.....

There's more than dirt and dung and drudgery now; engineer and vet and electrician you have to be...

But I will lift my eyes to the hills
and glad to see them, God.

*

LENT

Jesus said also to the people:
'When you see a cloud coming up in the west, at once you say "It is going to rain," and it does. And when you feel the south wind blowing, you say, "It is going to get hot," and it does. Imposters! You can look at the earth and the sky and tell what it means; why, then, don't you know the meaning of this present time?'

(Luke 12: 54-56 TEV.)

..(Congregational Prayer Fellowship Handbook)

IT'S THE TOPS

at the

HAT SHOW

by 'Irene' of Oldham Road

on Tuesday 10th April at 7.45 p.m.

Admission 10p including refreshments

Proceeds for C.C.W.M. & Cheshe.

Ladies, help us to make headway with this event.

START NOW

Coupons for our Autumn Fair on 17th November are now available. Start collecting them early. See your usual coupon seller or Mrs. E. Crossley.

VOLUNTEERS

Can you please help with the House to House collection for the National Children's Home. Please see Mrs. K. Hill as soon as possible.

SHORT NOTES

- Revd. R.A.C. West conducted a service of word and sacrament which included the induction of the Elders of our Church on Sunday 11th March. Mrs. Cockcroft was the pianist.

- Classical Music on record was played by Mr. J. Lord at the February meeting of the Mens Fellowship. Supper was served as a coda.

MATRIMONY

On March 17th, Pastor J. Lord officiated at the wedding of Duncan Higginbottom, 36 Chelmsford St., Oldham, to Christine Anne Burns, 24 Dover St., Rochdale.

We extend our congratulations and good wishes.

JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 29th April

Preacher: Rev. R. Parker B.A., B.D.

Organist: Mr. A. Clegg

At 10.30 am.

A Pageant: "TREES OF THE BIBLE "

At 6.00 p.m.

Evening Worship

There will be special singing by the choir at both services.

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DANCE * DANCE * DANCE

It is 18 months since we had a Saturday night event.....(Cries of "Shame")

Come and Dance - Dance - Dance - in the schoolroom on:

Saturday April 7th

THIS SATURDAY

at 7.30 pm.

The success of this venture depends on YOU!

So come and Dance - Dance - Dance - and if you cannot Dance - Dance - Dance - come along and enjoy the Company - Company - Company!

Proceeds for Church and C.C.W.M.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

April 1st	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
8th	Mr. D. Fursey	Miss M. Wood
15th	Counc. I. Royle	Counc. J. Harrison
20th	GOOD FRIDAY	
	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. R. Gillon
22nd	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
29th	Mrs. F. Whitworth	Mrs. J. Duffy
May 6th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae

ELDERS ROTA
EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

PIANIST/ORGANIST
EVENING WORSHIP

April 1st	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. D. Logan
8th	Mr. G. Whitworth	Mrs. C. Hey
15th	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. A. Clegg
19th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. D. Lynch (Thurs.)
22nd	NO EVENING WORSHIP	
29th	NO EVENING WORSHIP	
May 6th	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

April 1st	Mr. K. Hey	Mr. G. Whitworth 6.0 pm
19th	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. A. Roberts 7.30 p
22nd	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. M. Howarth 11.00 a
May 6th	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. J. Emmott

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

April 1st	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
8th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
15th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
22nd	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. Collins
29th	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
May 6th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

April 1st	Mrs. E. Crossley	Mr. J. Holt	
8th	Mr. B. Hill	Mrs. A.Stott	10.30
	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. J. Nairn	6.00
15th	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. W. Barker	
22nd	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. F. Beattie	
29th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. J. Holt	10.30
	Teachers		6.00
May 6th	Mr. B. Hill	Mr. E. Holt	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

April 8th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. F.G. Simpson
22nd	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. Beattie

COFFEE ROTA

April 1st	Mrs. W. Spinks	Mrs. A. Merrick
8th	Mrs. J. Allison	Mrs. D. Mallinson
15th	Mrs. E. Crawford	Mrs. J. Law
22nd	Mrs. K. Hill	Mrs. J. Simpson
29th	Mrs. B. Leach	Mrs. V. Crossley
May 6th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mrs. S. Moss

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS:

Details on Page 4

Readers:

April 1st	Carl Mallinson
8th	Elizabeth Leach
15th	Mr. S. Moss
22nd	Mrs. M.G. Hill
29th	-
May 6th	Esther Bennett

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

April

Sun.	1st	11.00 am.	Mr. D.S. Nuttall
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. L. Barlow (Bolton) (Service of Word & Sacrament)
Mon.	2nd	6.30 pm.	Pilots (and each Monday)
Tues.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild - Peru - (Mrs. D. Hayhurst)
Sat.	7th	7.30 pm.	Concert by: Rochdale & Dist.Male Voice Choir
Sun.	8th	11.00 am.	Rev. W. Purvis (Sacrament of Baptism)
		6.00 pm.	Rev. W. Purvis
Mon.	9th	8.00 pm.	District Lay Preachers Fellowship at Milnrow.
Wed.	11th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Fri.	13th	8.00 pm.	Finance Meeting
Sun.	15th	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Jeffrey
		6.00 pm.	"OLIVET TO CALVARY"
Thur.	19th	7.30 pm.	Rev. T.P. Strachan (Maundy Thursday - Service of Word & Sacrament)
Fri.	20th	10.30 am.	Good Friday - Mr. A. Roberts
Sun.	22nd	11.00 am.	Rev. A.C.Burnham (Fam.Comm.) No Evening service
Sun.	29th	11.00 am.	**Mr. W. Caffrey** No evening service - Littleborough U.R.C. Anniversary

May

Tues.	1st	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild (Cookery Demo)
Sun.	6th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Cooper
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. A. Collinge (Communion)

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

April	1st	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. E. King
	8th	Mrs. P. Royle	
	15th	Mrs. B. Stott	Mrs. A. Prestwich
	22nd	Mrs. C. Rothwell	Mrs. A. Lynch
	29th	Mrs. C. Clough	
May	6th	Mrs. N. Roberts	

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

April

Sun.	1st	10.30 am.	(Mothers' Day) Mr. J. Lord
Mon.	2nd		N.C.H. House to house collection
Tues.	3rd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild - Mr. J. Lord
Thur.	5th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Sat.	7th	7.30 pm.	Dance 20p. & 10p.
Sun.	8th	10.30 pm.	Mr. Jackson (Todmorden)
		6.00 pm.	Communion
Tues.	10th	7.45 pm.	Hat Show 10p
Thur.	12th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	15th	10.00 pm.	Mr. Minton
Thur.	19th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
		8.00 pm.	Mens Fellowship - (Counc. W.S. Edwards J.P.)
Fri.	20th	10.00 am.	(Easter) Mr. J. Lord
Sun.	22nd	10.30 am.	" Communion
Thur.	26th	7.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	29th	10.30 am.)	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
		6.00 pm.)	Rev. R. Parker B.A.,B.D.

May

Wed.	2nd	7.45 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Sun.	6th	10.30 am.	Mr. H.H. Sutcliffe.

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

April	1st	Mrs. N. Cockcroft
	8th	Mrs. A. Priestly
	15th	Mrs. W. Barker
	22nd	Mrs. M.G. Hill
	29th	Junior Church Anniversary
May	6th	Mrs. R. Holt

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
24 Ladyhouse Close,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

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HOSPITAL VISITORS

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory

*